

Message Text

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PAGE 01 DAMASC 04034 171441Z

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ACTION NODS-00

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /001 W

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FM AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 4886

S E C R E T DAMASCUS 4034

NODIS

FOR THE SECRETARY FROM AMBASSADOR

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, SY, US

SUBJECT: MESSAGE FROM PRESIDENT ASAD FOR SECRETARY KISSINGER
DECLINES MEETING WITH PRESIDENT FORD

REF: A. DAMASCUS 3898; B. DAMASCUS 4027

1. FOLLOWING IS TEXT OF MESSAGE FROM PRESIDENT ASAD FOR
SECRETARY DELIVERED TO ME BY PRESIDENT'S PRIVATE
SECRETARY AT 1310Z OCTOBER 17:

2. BEGIN TEXT: PRESIDENT HAFEZ AL-ASAD WANTS TO THANK
DR. KISSINGER FOR HIS MESSAGE DATED OCTOBER 8, 1975.

3. THE PRESIDENT WANTS TO EXPRESS TO PRESIDENT FORD
HIS RESPECT FOR THE MOTIVES BEHIND HIS DESIRE TO ARRANGE
A MEETING BETWEEN THEM. INDEED, PRESIDENT ASAD SHARES
WITH PRESIDENT FORD HIS DESIRE TO HAVE SUCH A MEETING.

4. HOWEVER, THE PRESIDENT WANTS TO MAKE IT CLEAR THAT
THE DATA OF THE SINAI AGREEMENT, OUR ATTITUDE TOWARD
THIS AGREEMENT AND DEVELOPMENTS THAT FOLLOWED, ALL
THESE MAY GIVE WAY TO UNTRUE INFERENCES OR INTERPRETA-
TIONS TO THE MEETING OF THE TWO PRESIDENTS, AND SOME OF
SUCH INFERENCES AND INTERPRETATIONS MAY BE MANIPULATED
IN FAVOR OF THE SINAI AGREEMENT--A SITUATION WHICH DOES

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PAGE 02 DAMASC 04034 171441Z

NOT CONFORM WITH THE AIM OF THE MEETING.

5. THEREFORE, THE PRESIDENT SUGGESTS THAT THE MEETING SHOULD TAKE PLACE IN MUTUALLY MORE FAVORABLE CONDITIONS, WHICH WILL BE--AS WE HOPE--FREE OF ANY SHORTCOMINGS WHICH MAY MAR THEM AND AFFECT THE POSITIVE EFFECT OF THE MEETING IN DEVELOPING RELATIONS AND COOPERATION BETWEEN OUR TWO COUNTRIES.

6. FINALLY, THE PRESIDENT SENDS HIS WARM PERSONAL REGARDS TO DR. KISSINGER. END TEXT
MURPHY

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